

Appl. No. : 10/713,845
Filed : November 14, 2003

REMARKS

Prior to the present amendment, Claims 23-65 were pending in the present application. By the present amendment, Claims 40 and 44 are cancelled and Claims 41-43, 45 and 46 are amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 23-39 and 48-65, and the indication of Claims 45-47 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 45 to incorporate the features of base Claim 40 and intervening Claim 44, and have also amended the dependencies of Claims 41-43 and 46 to depend from newly rewritten Claim 45. Claims 40 and 44 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 40-44 as being anticipated by Radens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,251,710).

As noted above, Applicants have rewritten allowable Claim 45, cancelled rejected Claims 40 and 44, and amended the dependencies of the remaining rejected claims to depend from allowable and rewritten Claim 45.

Accordingly, without acquiescing in the rejections, Applicants submit that the rejections are moot.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. If, however, some issue remains that the Examiner feels can be addressed by Examiner Amendment, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned for authorization.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: Adeel Syed Akhtar
Adeel S. Akhtar
Registration No. 41,394
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(415) 954-4114

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